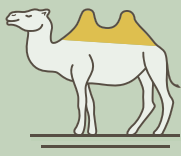




VILLAGE OF  
  
**CLINTON**  
HISTORIC WALKING TOUR



**CLINTON**

— WHERE —

**HISTORY**

MEETS ADVENTURE

— SINCE 1863 —

An aerial photograph of the village of Clinton, British Columbia, showing a mix of residential buildings, green fields, and a large pond. The village is nestled in a valley surrounded by dense evergreen forests. A road winds through the landscape, and a large open field is visible near the pond.

## WELCOME

Welcome to Clinton BC - our small, picturesque village filled with an incredible amount of history. As you stroll through our Village streets we hope you will appreciate the heritage our ancestors have left behind. This tour is designed to bring you closer to a first-hand experience of the past while exploring the modern changes of today. While on the tour, explore one of the many unique shops or restaurants, or take in the beautiful scenery in one of the local parks or trails.

*The Village of Clinton is located in the traditional territory of the Secwépemc Nation.*

## INTRODUCTION

The First Nations people who inhabited this territory of land long before western settlement are known as the Secwépemc with traditional territory ranging around 180,000 square kilometres across central-eastern British Columbia. The Secwépemc, which roughly translates to “People of the spread out place” are the largest nation in the interior of British Columbia. Locally, the **Pellit’iq’t** (Whispering Pines / Clinton Indian Band) and the **Llenleney’ten** (High Bar First Nation) People have traditional territory around the **Village of Clinton**.

The settlement that we know today as Clinton occurred in the 1800s upon the development of the Cariboo Wagon Roads and the “rush” from the discovery of gold in the region. As a junction, the location of the settlement made it an ideal resting place for weary travelers and miners en route to the goldfields of Barkerville. As more families decided to permanently settle in the community, it grew into a bustling stop along the Gold Rush Trail. During Clinton’s history, many buildings were erected and while many of those burned to the ground, others still remain. Along this tour you will note the locations of where these buildings once stood and of those that are still standing today.



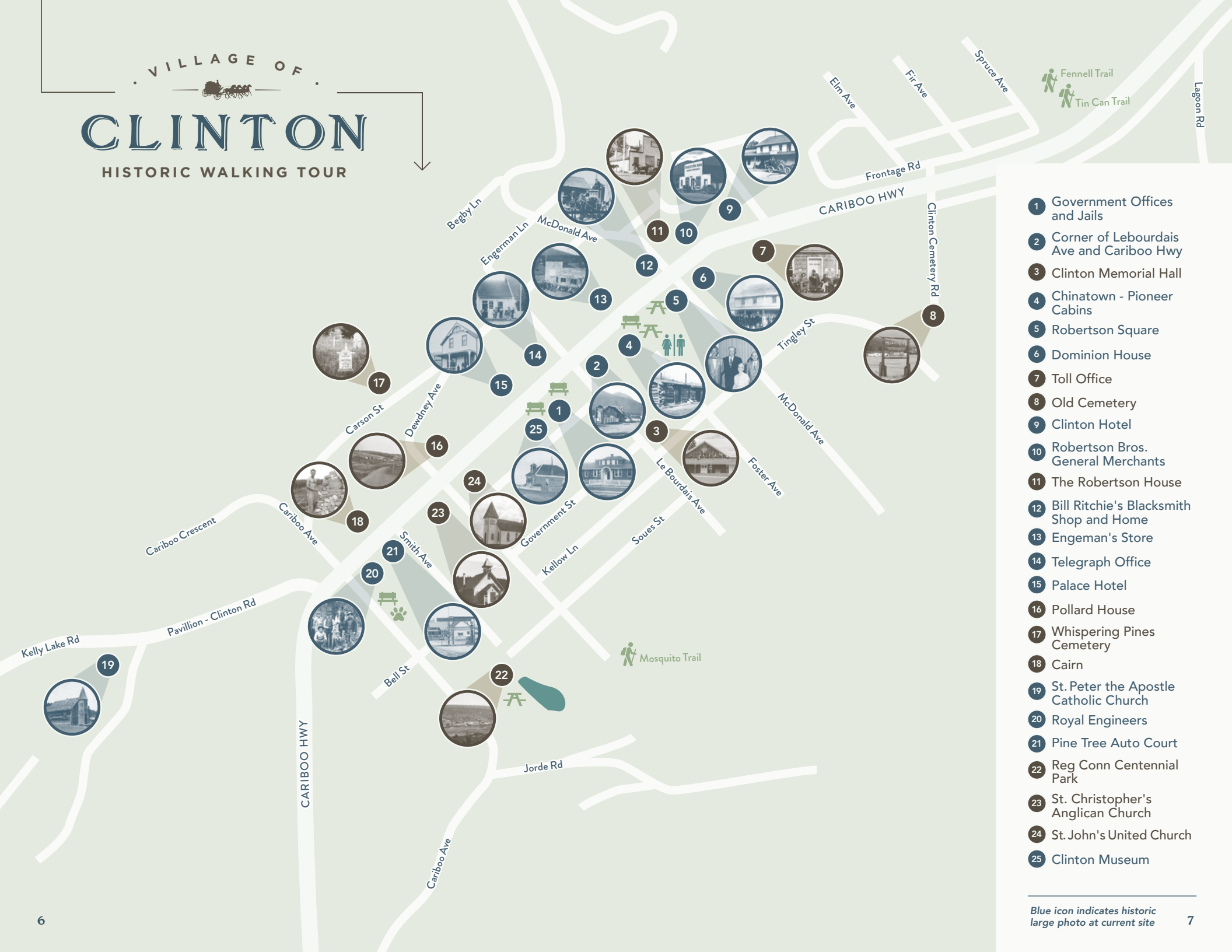
While a thorough effort has been made to ensure accuracy of the information provided in this booklet at the time of publication, it must be acknowledged that a large amount of history was never recorded and lays silent beneath the earth, occasionally arising in the form of discovered artifacts. Additionally, not all aspects of traditional Secwépemc culture are recorded in anthropological and ethnohistorical literature. First Nation societies underwent significant changes as a result of the European contact, so some cultural aspects that were recorded in literature may not accurately reflect on that culture prior to contact.

Both High Bar First Nation and Whispering Pines / Clinton Indian Band are currently undertaking research efforts to preserve and record their history, including the recent research in the location of hundreds of historic pit houses in the region. Their knowledge of traditional information and ways of life still exist today in their modern communities and reserves. The Clinton Museum also continues to collect, archive, document historic artifacts and information and display the history of the region in the museum and online.

We encourage you to visit the Clinton Museum and the websites of High Bar First Nation ([www.highbarfirstnation.ca](http://www.highbarfirstnation.ca)) and Whispering Pines Clinton Indian Band ([www.wpcib.com](http://www.wpcib.com)) to continue your education of the history of this region and of the local people that have helped build our community.



VILLAGE OF  
  
**CLINTON**  
 HISTORIC WALKING TOUR



- 1 Government Offices and Jails
- 2 Corner of Lebourdais Ave and Cariboo Hwy
- 3 Clinton Memorial Hall
- 4 Chinatown - Pioneer Cabins
- 5 Robertson Square
- 6 Dominion House
- 7 Toll Office
- 8 Old Cemetery
- 9 Clinton Hotel
- 10 Robertson Bros. General Merchants
- 11 The Robertson House
- 12 Bill Ritchie's Blacksmith Shop and Home
- 13 Engeman's Store
- 14 Telegraph Office
- 15 Palace Hotel
- 16 Pollard House
- 17 Whispering Pines Cemetery
- 18 Cairn
- 19 St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church
- 20 Royal Engineers
- 21 Pine Tree Auto Court
- 22 Reg Conn Centennial Park
- 23 St. Christopher's Anglican Church
- 24 St. John's United Church
- 25 Clinton Museum

Blue icon indicates historic large photo at current site



## GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND JAIL

The tour begins at 1423 Cariboo Highway - the Government Offices and Jail. In 1873, the Government Agent's house and courthouse was actually located in the lot directly across Cariboo Highway. On March 23, 1919, the courthouse was destroyed by fire, and similarly the Government Agent's residence also met the same fate in 1970.

The first Government Agent appointed in the Village was **Charles Edward Pope** in 1872. Several others followed in quick succession until 1877 when **Frederick W. Soues** became the Agent - a position he held until his retirement in 1911. Soues Street was named after him. You will soon read more about Soues at "The Palace Hotel"

In 1926, the courthouse and jail were rebuilt in the location you see now, but the building burnt to the ground before being occupied. Within a year, the building was reconstructed in the same footprint. This new building housed the Government Agent and the police offices on the main floor and the living quarters of the Police on the second floor. Two wings were later added to the building to include the courthouse and the forestry office. Today, the building is owned by the Village of Clinton and houses the municipal offices, council chambers, and various other offices.



## CORNER OF LEBOURDAIS AVENUE AND CARIBOO HIGHWAY

The famous Historic Gold Rush Trail runs through Clinton. The community we know today began as a roadhouse on the Cariboo Trail in 1860. It was a busy junction situated halfway to the goldfields, making it an ideal place for the weary traveller to stop for food, rest, entertainment and often encouragement. By 1868 Clinton was a well established community and by 1890 it bustled!

The name of the community changed many times during its establishment.

- Originally, the local Secwépemc people referred to the village as **Pethdethd** which means "white earth"
- Later, trappers called it **Cut Off Valley** because the creek cut off from the Bonaparte River near the town.
- With the arrival of the first white settlers, they referred to the town as **47 Mile House** because it was located 47 miles from Mile 0 (Lillooet) on the first Gold Rush Trail.
- When the second Gold Rush Trail from Yale was constructed, it met the trail from Lillooet here and 47 Mile House was then renamed to **The Junction** to reflect the confluence of the two important trails.
- Finally, on June 11, 1863 the name **Clinton** was officially adopted by **Queen Victoria** to inaugurate the retirement of **Henry Tiennes Pelham Clinton**, the Colonial Secretary of the day and the 5th Duke of Newcastle.



## CLINTON MEMORIAL HALL

The Clinton Memorial Hall was built in 1920 as a tribute to Clinton area residents who did not return from the first World War. Local volunteers, including war veterans, worked hard to build the much needed venue from collecting the wood from trees in the forest to special milling the lumber at the local mill (the owner of which, **Mr. Botterill**, also helped out at no cost) to erect the building. Generous monetary donations from those unable to donate their labour were used to pay for the windows, doors, hardware and wages for the supervising carpenter. A plaque resides within the Hall to those 20 young veterans lost in the First World War.

This larger venue would be able to host the Clinton Annual Ball along with other important community events. The Hall boasts a maple hardwood spring floor, one of the few in the country, and said to be one of the best dance floors in the country. It is said that the floor rises up to meet the happy feet of dancing couples.

May 1948 on the occasion of the visit by the Governor General and Viscount Alexander of Tunis.  
Photo Credits: Earl Cahill



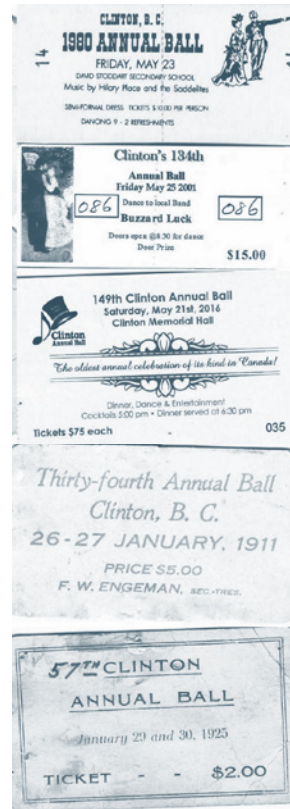
## The Clinton Annual Ball

On New Years Day 1868, **Mrs. Smith** of the Clinton Hotel arranged to host the first Clinton Ball in their lobby. As she planned the event to bring some warmth and entertainment to the cold, long winters of the Cariboo, she would not dream that over 150 years later, the Clinton Ball would still be going strong.

Some of the earlier Balls lasted for up to a week with dancing every night. Attendance was by invitation only, and local ladies spent months planning, ordering gowns from Victoria, San Francisco, and even Europe. Some ladies brought whole wardrobes, and changed several times during the evening. Where else in the Cariboo could they display their finery?

The venue for the second Ball, in 1869, changed to **Mr. Bell's** new warehouse, adjacent to the Hotel to accommodate more people. Later balls were held in the new (as of 1892) courthouse. In 1920, the Clinton Memorial Hall would become the annual venue of the important event, and attendance became open, rather than invite only. However, for the monumental 150th Clinton Annual Ball in 2017, the larger venue of the 47 Mile Arena was used in order to host even more guests for the celebration of this important milestone.

The Ball has survived two world wars, the depression, global pandemics, and major demographic changes. Over time, the Ball has been shortened, to two days, and more recently, to one glorious night. But the spirit survives: guests dress up in their finest attire and dance the night away.





## CHINATOWN - PIONEER CABINS

The original Chinatown was located on both sides of the Cariboo Highway between McDonald Avenue and Lebourdais Street and was an integral part of Clinton in the 1880s. Chinatown featured cafes, stores and laundry services. At this location before you, a Chinese hardware store was situated. Like many of the older buildings in the community, it was destroyed by fire only leaving behind a glass wall in the basement made entirely of Chinese and opium bottles.

One notable flourishing business in the Village was run by **Hop Wo**. He used gold instead of modern currency in his small log store, and used a single-pan gold scale to calculate values. On the scale, a pendulum was slid along the bamboo stick which had the weights marked with tiny brass studs.



A small fraction of the history of Chinese Pioneers was left behind in the form of many artifacts. This includes the old Chinese abacus, known as a suanpan, a machine used for counting and adding made of wooden beads on metal rods within a wooden frame. The one on display at the Museum used to belong to Hop Wo's store. Also found were Chinese coins with square holes and distinct horn-pan balance scales. Today, old bottles will still surface from time to time. These historic artifacts are available for your view at the Museum.

The current building before you was constructed in the early 1950s and at various times has housed a coffee shop, a taxi stand and the Greyhound bus depot. In the mid-1950s the Bank of Montreal moved to this location and installed a Diebold Safe & Lock. This hand painted safe is a must see and dates back to the 1800s. The weight of the safe is so immense that the bank was required to install a concrete pad under the building just to support its mass.



## ROBERTSON SQUARE

This square is dedicated to the Robertson Family. In the late 1800s, **Susan Gillen** married **James A. Robertson** and they raised their four children on a ranch on the Clinton Creek above Clinton townsite. Their four children were:

- **Caroline Bell** (1888-1990): married **Frank W. Engeman**; they lived their entire lives in Clinton. Read more about Caroline under "Engeman's Store".
- **James Kidd** (1890-1996): James started working in McDonald & McGillivray Ltd. in 1908, and then served in World War One from 1916-1918. Due to a war wound, he was hospitalized in 1918 when the Armistice was signed, then returned to Clinton shortly after. At that point in time, it was **Robert Fraser** who was the owner of the general merchant and who offered James work once again with the store. After Fraser's death, James and his brother Raymond co-owned the store, until James retired in 1954.
- **Charles Ewen** (1899-1991): Worked with the Forest Service for 42 years until his retirement in 1963.
- **Raymond** (1904-1991): Started working in Robertson Store at the age of 11 years and became a partner with James in 1932. He retired in 1978 after over 60 years of being with the store. Raymond and his wife Eldra had two daughters, Blanche and Carol, and one son Neil. Raymond was named the Citizen of the Year twice.

The backdrop for this square, "Buckingham Palace Hotel" was constructed and donated by our local family doctor, **Dr. Frank Campbell** (1929-2009), who gave over 35 years of service to our community. This backdrop was originally built for the annual ball and rodeo festivities, and then later served as the facade on his office until it was moved and resurrected at this site.



L-R: James, Charlie, Carrie, Raymond Robertson

## DOMINION HOUSE

About one block south of the southeast corner of Cariboo Highway and McDonald Ave once stood the Dominion House, a popular roadhouse or hotel for travellers. It was originally built in 1863 by **James Uren** and in November 1895, the proprietor **Mark Eagleson** erected an addition onto it.

On March 28, 1893 Robert Hurry bought one half interest and then later sold it to **Thomas Barton** in 1897. It burnt to the ground in 1924. The old hand-operated laundry mangle from the House is currently on display at the Clinton Museum.







## TOLL OFFICE

By the time **Gustavus Blyn Wright** and **Frank Calbreath** completed their contract to reconstruct the road from Lillooet to Clinton, they had lost thousands of dollars. The Provincial Government gave Wright permission to erect a toll gate at the north end of Clinton to recoup some of the loss.

The toll was levied in Sterling at the rate of one cent per pound of freight and one shilling per animal. In front of the Toll Office was a set of ten platform scales to weigh the freight wagons and levy the toll. The toll booth was operated by a named **J. Champness** from 1863-1868 and even served as a temporary courthouse at one point.

The above photo are the following people in front of the Toll Building (from left to right):

- **J.L. Smith, Sr.** and his son, owner of the Clinton Hotel
- **Chas Dougherty**, of Maiden Creek Ranch
- **John Pollard**, of Pollard Ranch
- **J. Champness**, the toll collector at the time of the photo
- The others in the photograph are not identified

## Camels in the Cariboo

**Frank Calbreath**, along with **Frank Laumeister**, was also known as the consignee for those famous camels that made only one trip to the Cariboo and back. In 1862 miners stared in awe as camels were brought in as a means of transport for supplies to the Cariboo from Yale. It was envisioned that these muscular animals would be perfect for carrying heavy amounts of freight long distances without needing regular water. The idea was sparked from neighbours in the US having success using camels as pack animals, but the Cariboo Camels had a different result. The experiment was unsuccessful as the camels spooked the horses and their soft hoof pads were unsuited to the rocky trails, even with the addition of canvas booties. They were also found to be quite destructive with their diet including miner's pants, shirts, and even bars of soap. Sadly, after the unsuccessful experiment, many of the camels were left to their own defenses with others taken in at nearby ranches. The last notable surviving Cariboo Camel was called "Lady" and lived at a ranch in Grand Prairie, BC (currently Westwood, BC) until around 1896-1905. Lady, shown with **WH Smith**, is the subject of the photograph below which is the only known photograph of the camels. →





## OLD CEMETERY (CLINTON PIONEER CEMETERY)

While many gold seekers simply passed through Clinton on their search for gold, others decided to stay and make Clinton their home. It soon became apparent that a final resting place was needed for those unable to survive the challenges of living in the town, as well as for those who succumbed to the hardships and diseases while travelling the Gold Rush Trail.

In 1861 **Joseph Smith**, the soon-to-be proprietor of the Clinton Hotel, donated several acres of land and the “Old Clinton Cemetery” was established. Prior to this, the site was simply known as Smitty’s Pasture, though many travelers who met their demise along the trail were interred here. The first registered grave was in 1861, but other existing graves remained unknown and unmarked



due to unrecorded internments. It would be another 100 years until an access road was built. Joseph Smith and his wife Mary are buried in plots #265 and #266.

The original wooden tombstones have disintegrated, but the stone markers have survived. Much of the history of the Cariboo Gold Rush lays silent beneath these weathered tombstones while the many descendants of the Pioneers continue to live and display the pioneer spirit in Clinton and surrounding areas to this day.

Although the cemetery was closed in 1973, families with reserved sites are able to be buried there today. Until around 2015, the cemetery was maintained by volunteers, then the Village of Clinton became the caretaker. The Old Cemetery is famously known as one of the oldest cemeteries in the BC Interior.

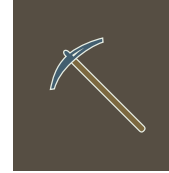


## CLINTON HOTEL

The Clinton Hotel, originally known as “47 Mile House,” was built from hand-hewn and whip-sawn logs expertly dovetailed together and pinned with wooden pegs. It was constructed by **George and Robert Watson** and **Billy McKinnon** in 1860 and quickly became known as one of the best stops along the Cariboo Wagon Road. It stood two stories tall and measured 20’ x 40’ with not one nail used in its construction!

A few years later, hotelier **Joseph Lorenzo Smith** and his wife **Mary Eliza**, with business partner **Tom Marshall**, purchased the building and immediately extended the building. They added a billiard room and a ladies parlour to the North and South ends of the original structure along with a few outbuildings.

The Smiths held the first Clinton Ball in the hotel’s billiard room on January 1 of 1868 as a way to break up the long, cold Cariboo winters. It quickly became a hit and was held annually, with the party sometimes lasting up to two weeks



and attracting visitors from hundreds of miles away. Little did they know at the time that the Clinton Annual Ball would become one of the longest continuously running events of its kind in Canada!

**Joseph Smith** died in 1871. Mary married **Tom Marshall** in 1873 and the pair operated the business until Smith’s son, **Joseph Jr.** took over in 1877. 1913, Joseph Jr. sold the business to the **Wardell family** ending almost 50 years of the **Smith family** involvement with the Clinton Hotel.

At one time, the Clinton Hotel was one of the oldest hotels west of the Rockies and never closed in its nearly 100 years of operation. Unfortunately, on the night of the Annual Ball, May 15, 1958 about 3:45am, a devastating fire destroyed the hotel and took the lives of three guests - the **Mikkelson family** from Kelowna. At the time of its demise the hotel had a fireplace of rock collected from the mines throughout BC. The remains of the hotel’s foundations lay before you on the vacant lot. Other mementos salvaged from the wreckage, including the two stoves which heated the lobby and the billiard room, are viewable at the Clinton Museum. A model display of the Clinton Hotel was made in the 1960’s after the fire and currently also lives at the Museum.





## ROBERTSON BROS. GENERAL MERCHANTS

At the location before you once stood a general merchant store with a long history of owners, name changes and friendly service. At one time, Clinton Creek ran under the store building; during flood season each spring the creek became a raging, torrent flowing around the store and across the roadway.

**IN 1863:** The Greenbaum brothers constructed the original store on this site - the northeast corner of McDonald and Cariboo Highway.

**MARCH 1864:** F.W. Foster bought the store and called it **Foster's General Store**. He sold all sorts of dry goods and had a liquor bar. Some of his furnishings are on display today at the museum including gold scales, ribbon cabinet, spice cabinet, liquor barrel and more.

**1901:** Foster sold the store to **Archie McDonald** and **Jack McGillivray**. They changed the store's name to **McDonald & McGillivray Ltd.**

**By 1907** the store was known as "**Silent Mac's**" by the locals. You could purchase a 30/30 rifle for \$17.50 and a box of shells for 95 cents.

**1915:** the store changed hands again and was sold to **Robert Fraser** who owned and operated it as **Robert Fraser General Merchant** until his death in 1932.

**1932:** After Fraser's death, he left part shares of the store to **James** and **Raymond Roberston** who both had worked at the store for many years. They both then paid Fraser's estate for the remainder of the store and renamed it the **Robertson Bros General Merchant**.

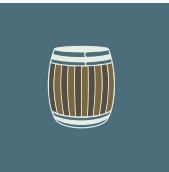
**1954:** James retired from the store and **Alfred Smith** became a business partner with **Raymond Robertson** for the next 24 years until sold to new owners in 1978.

**SEPT. 27, 1992:** The store retained the name **Robertson Bros.** through two more owners until the building was destroyed by fire.

The current building before you, as you will notice, was built with a similar facade to the original store and reminds us of this location's colourful history.

## Rum Barrel

Until 1910, Foster's store featured a bar where you could buy two drinks for \$0.25. Liquor was stored in the cellar and could only be reached via a trap door in front of the counter. A pulley and rope arrangement, threaded through an eye-bolt hook on the ceiling, was used to raise and lower the whiskey barrels. This enabled the shopkeeper to fill the empty bottles brought in by the patrons. **F.W. Foster** also was known as **Dr. Foster**, with records from 1877 indicating he delivered twins for a local woman. He was also known to use this barrel system to dispense medications to the sick.





## THE ROBERTSON HOUSE

In 1866, **F.W. Foster** built this historic house (which is still standing) directly behind Foster's General Store. Lumber for construction of the house and enlargement of the store was obtained from the **J.L. Smith** family sawmill which was erected just behind the store adjacent to Clinton Creek.

The house had close ties to the store adjacent to it. In 1932, the home and the store were purchased by **James and Elizabeth Robertson** where they continued to live even long after James retired from the store. Their important presence in the town, including Elizabeth being awarded as Citizen of the Year in 1984, has left the historic building with the name "The Robertson House" to this day.

## CARIBOO WAGON ROAD

The Cariboo Wagon Road was a project initiated by **James Douglas**, the Governor of the colony of B.C, in 1860. It would be a road that stretched from Fort Yale to Barkerville following an ancient network of First Nations trails. There are a few different versions of the wagon road:

**Wright's Road (the "old" Cariboo Road):** The first Cariboo Wagon Road followed the original HBC trail from Lillooet-over Pavillion Mountain-Clinton-70 Mile House-100 Mile House-Lac La Hache-150 Mile House to the contracted end near Soda Creek and Alexandria. Wright's road was built in 1859 and finished in 1870. This was the first practical access to the Cariboo.

**Yale-Cariboo Road (the "new" Cariboo Road):** The second Cariboo wagon road which was built during the period of the stage coaches and freight wagons. This wagon road started in Yale and followed North through the Fraser Canyon to Lytton, then up the Thompson River to Ashcroft, connecting to the earlier Cariboo Road north in Clinton (the Junction).

By 1865, the route had been extended to Barkerville.

Much of the Fraser Canyon wagon road was destroyed by the railway construction as well as by washouts and the great flood of 1894.



*Typical freight outfit at the Lone Pine, junction of the 'old' and 'new' Cariboo Wagon Road*



## BILL RITCHIE'S BLACKSMITH SHOP AND HOME

Blacksmith **William Ritchie** resided in Clinton from 1909 to around 1915. He took over from Clinton's first blacksmith, a man named **McLennan**.

The above photograph shows Bill standing at the left and his son, Lorn, sitting on the wagon. You can tell by the picture that the wagon was heading south because there appear to be only two horses. Many more were required for the uphill trip north!

The current building in this location was constructed in the early 1950s and once housed a bakery.



## ENGEMAN'S STORE

**Frank W Engeman**, a young steam engineer from Minnesota, married **Caroline Bell Robertson** and in the early 1900s owned a general store just to the left of this location. The Engemans also owned a garage across the street known as the "Central". This photograph of his store was taken around WWII. Frank also ran a blacksmith shop, was a carpenter, and operated a rock crusher on Mt. Begbie.

He was the proud owner of the first car in Clinton. In 1920 he had the car shipped from Chicago by rail and started Clinton's first taxi service. The taxi carried five passengers and made regular trips to Ashcroft for \$5.00 for a round trip.

They had a son Jim and a daughter Frances. Frank died in 1951 at the age of 71.





## TELEGRAPH OFFICE

This building before you used to be the home of the telegraph office of Clinton. The building was actually originally located on the opposite (southwest) side of Cariboo Highway nearby the Government Office. The photo depicts telegraph communications run by a family; look up and you'll see our modern day telephone service run electronically - how things change!

Telegraphs became obsolete when telephone services came to Clinton in the 1920s. The telegraph office became a residence and the new telephone service was located in the Palace Hotel and run by **Scott** and **Nancy Gillespie**.

An interesting coincidence about this location is that you will notice a payphone booth before you, which similarly to the telegraph, is becoming obsolete with the modern use of cellular devices.



## PALACE HOTEL

**Frederick Soues** was a resident in Clinton since 1869, was appointed as Deputy Commissioner in 1877, and then as Government Agent in 1881, a position in which he held for 30 years. In 1886, Soues purchased Lots 13 and within a year arranged the construction of this fine residential building, later to be known as the Palace Hotel. Photographic records show that Frederick and his family were in the top echelon of society in Clinton, much to be expected as his role in government service at the time.

Commercial business and the real estate market in the South Cariboo was expanding rapidly in 1886 due to the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway through Ashcroft. Stage coach operator **Emile La Forest** became the first tenant, 1887-1896, to occupy the house that Soues' had constructed. Emile worked for the BC Express Company in Ashcroft which had its stables next door at the site of the current Clinton Lodge. By 1896 Emile moved to San Francisco to work for the Wells Fargo Co and had a long and illustrious career with that company.

With La Forest's departure, Soues decided to turn the residence into The Palace Hotel. Agent Soues would have had many officials, judges and distinguished visitors staying at the hotel who were here to attend the courthouse and agents office next door.



## POLLARD HOUSE

The building before you, currently known as the Pollard House, was originally built in 1915 by **Mr. Fry** for the **Botterill Family**. Mat and Mina Botterill, along with their four children, were early settlers in the area and moved to Clinton in 1910. At the time of their move, Mr. Botterill operated a freighting business on the Old Cariboo Wagon Road between Ashcroft and Barkerville with horse drawn wagons (one of which you can view at the Museum). At one point, a diesel wheel tractor was brought in from the Prairies to only be used for a short period before Mr. Botterill gave up his freight line and instead used the tractor for power in one of the first sawmills in the district. During this time he also brought in a white steamer - one of the first cars on the Cariboo Road. Mr. Botterill continued in the sawmill business until his retirement.

Around 1942, **Thomas and Helen Pollard** and their family moved into the residence. Thomas was a direct descendent of **John and Kezia Pollard** - the founders of Pollard's Cornish Ranch and Roadhouse.



## The Pollard Ranch

**John Pollard**, of Cornwall, England came to western Canada in 1849 in search of gold. After finding not much luck in the search for gold, John instead decided to focus his efforts in settling land. He purchased land in Cut-Off Valley and began the construction of numerous buildings which would form his road house.

He ran this for roughly 20 years before he started to consider marriage at age 60, and then returned to Cornwall to marry Miss **Kezia Truan**. They both returned to the ranch and raised seven children while operating the ranch until John's death in 1901. Kezia, whose positive attitude had adjusted her to the pioneer lifestyle, was left to raise her family and operate the roadhouse until her sons were old enough to take over. Kezia offered gracious hospitality and ran a successful roadhouse. In 1908, she was able to build a three-story frame house, which was considered a mansion back then. At the time of her death in 1923, the ranch had been divided into two sections for two of their sons – John and Thomas (in the photograph above) – to operate. The ranch continued to be passed down in the family until the third generation leaving the ranch with a legacy remembered to this day. You can read more about the Pollard Ranch at the Clinton Museum.







## WHISPERING PINES CEMETERY

In this location, on both sides of Carson Street, is the Whispering Pines Cemetery. This is actually a singular cemetery, not two separate ones, and the road you are standing on cuts directly through the historic cemetery. Like the Old Cemetery, not all the graves have been marked, and the wooden markers you see today in this cemetery are relatively new. This is one of many important heritage sites for Whispering Pines / Clinton Indian Band, with current research still being undertaken to help tell untold stories.

All of the Secwépemc territory is filled with important heritage sites, including the territory itself. Recent research from Whispering Pines has found evidence of hundreds (to potentially thousands) of pit homes in the territory between the Chasm and where Kelly Creek meets the Fraser River (near current day Edge Hills Provincial Park). These can be identified from round indentations around six inches to around a foot deep in the ground.

Secwépemc territory ranges for hundreds of thousands of square kilometers across BC and parts of Alberta. Historically, geography determined seven subunits with the

Secwépemc consisting of around 32 bands - each with a primary village and a Chief, whose role was to coordinate tasks and be an advisor to his people. These groups would move through the Secwépemc territory seasonally to occupy the different parts, such as moving closer to the Fraser River in the colder months as the winters were milder. Early Secwépemc lived off the land and would move from food source to food source, to fish, hunt, and gather using knowledge of the land. The sound of the grasshopper would signify the time of the sockeye salmon run, and the sound of the frog would signify the arrival of Spring (LeBourdais, 2021).

Between the 1820s and the 1860s upon the arrival of European and American settlers, the Secwépemc and the Western traders established a relationship based on trade for hides, fish, roots, nuts, and berries. Fur traders and trappers, and then early gold seekers, were reliant on guidance from the Secwépemc deep knowledge of the land for survival. *(Continued on next page).* →

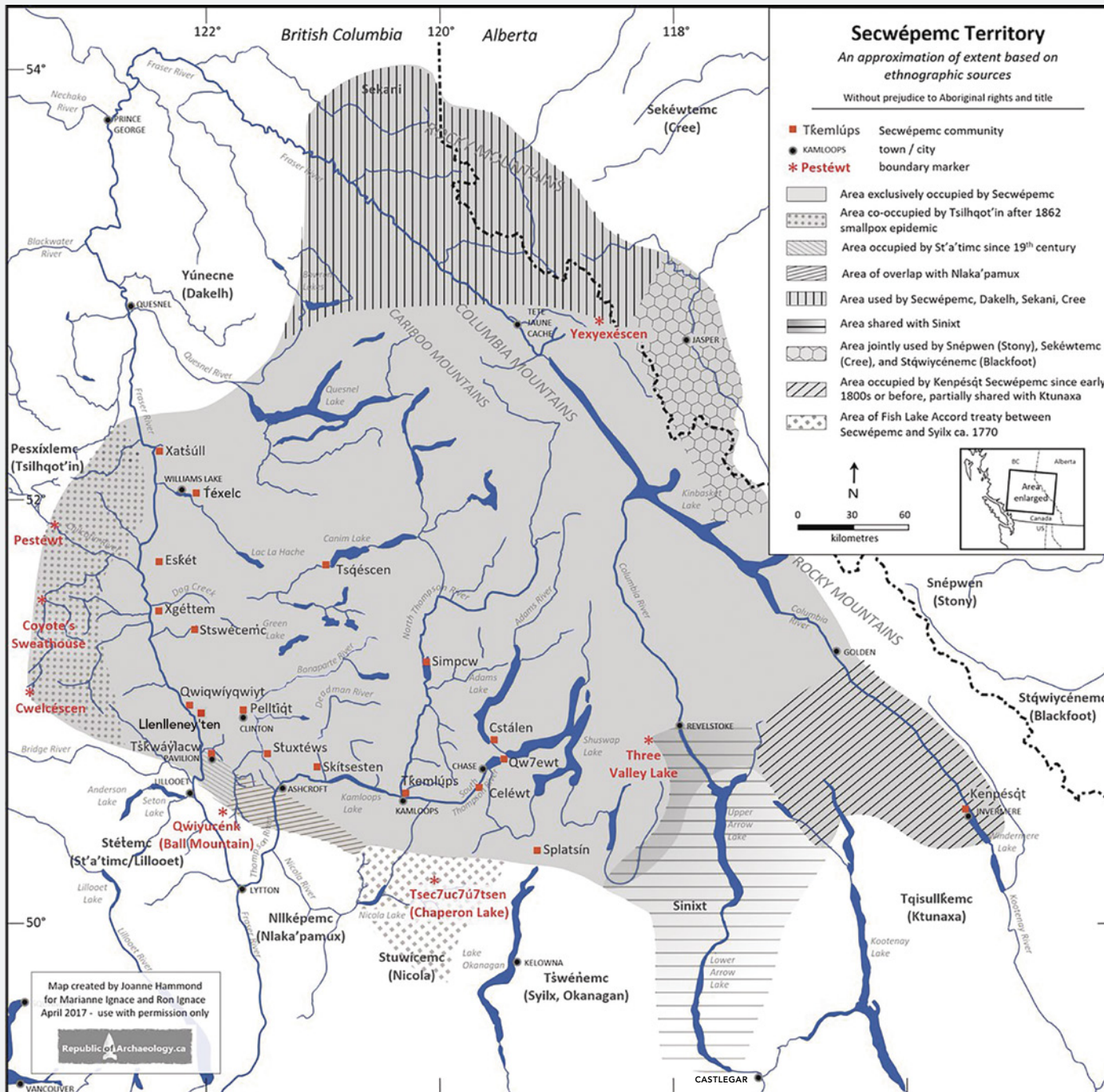
*"As the wind blows gently over the land,  
We know you are watching over us,  
And all that surrounds,  
We give 'thanks' for all that you have created  
And 'thanks' for giving us strength & wisdom  
To be caretakers of this great land.*



*As the 'Four Directions' gives us the circle of life,  
Our forefathers have taught us to  
Respect all like, and may we never forget  
Who we are, Where we come from,  
And What we stand for."*

*Whispering Pines / Clinton Indian Band*





In the mid-1800's, there was a discovery of gold in the region, leading to the famous Cariboo Gold Rush. Notably in local history, in 1872, in the traditional Secwépemc territory currently known as Edge Hills Provincial Park, a young Secwépemc man discovered gold where Kelly Creek meets the Fraser. The discovery of gold attracted a large number of European and American settlers, which had negative impacts on the Secwépemc people through displacement and disease. Prominently the smallpox epidemic in 1862 brought in from the newcomers drastically reduced the population of the Secwépemc people and a large portion of Secwépemc history was lost.

Research is currently being undertaken by Whispering Pines / Clinton Indian Band, as well as High Bar First Nation, to document and preserve the history of their ancestors and share this history with others. They encourage anyone to visit their websites to continue your education in their history.

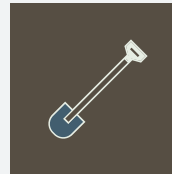


## CAIRN

This cairn was erected by the Clinton and District Chamber of Commerce in 1958. The cairn marks the junction of two routes: the original 1859 Cariboo Trail from Lillooet and the 1863 Cariboo Road through the Fraser Canyon that was built by the Royal Engineers.



**Derward Smith**, as seen in the photograph, was Clinton's Land Inspector, in 1953 designed and selected the stones in the cairn. All the stones were patiently and carefully collected from along both routes. The roads of the two routes were maintained with old fashioned tools - muscle power, shovels, wheelbarrows and a "scraper" pulled by a horse which served as a sort of grader. The cairn was declared a Municipal Heritage site by the Village of Clinton in 1989.



## ST. PETERS APOSTLE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Around 1865, the initial log Church shown in the photograph was built as part of a 8-Mile Reserve and was located approximately across from the current location of the church - you can estimate its previous location from the slope of the land in the photo. 8-Mile Reserve, would be part of the current Whispering Pines / Clinton Indian Band, was located along the stretch of land where Kelly Lake Road currently is and where you are currently standing, along with more traditional territory west towards Kelly Lake (where the current substation is located). Today, Whispering Pines have reserve land located nearby the city of Kamloops, as well as approximately north of the train tracks above where you stand today.

In 1949, **Father Gerald Dunlop** wrote to **Monsignor McDonagh** requesting a new church. He wrote about the dilapidated state of his church and the need of a new structure for his Catholic population of around one-hundred souls. He described how the holes in the roof brightened up the interior on fine, sunny days, but on rainy days, tended to not only dampen spirits but also their very persons. The floor was described as rickety and the furnishings dilapidated. Much misery was suffered from the cold in sub-zero temperature. Only the daring would venture to ring the bell for fear of being trapped in falling debris. Father Dunlop received funds to start construction on a new church in April the following year.

On June 2, 1952, the present day St Peter's Roman Catholic Church was dedicated by **Father John Ryan**. The original altar from the log church, the picture of the Last Supper, the first statues, and other artifacts were moved into the current church and remain there today. The bell was also moved into the church, and now can ring clearly and joyfully, without fear of dangerous falling debris.





## ROYAL ENGINEERS

The story of the Corps of the Royal Engineers covers over nine hundred years; and the Corps can claim direct descent from the military engineers brought to England by William the Conqueror. The Corps has no battle honors but its motto is ubiquitous which means “seemingly present everywhere at the same time.” As well as gallantry in war, their skills are in even greater demand during peace and wherever British interests lie.

150 Royal Engineers, all volunteers, arrived in Esquimalt Harbor on April 2, 1859. They spent the next five years surveying and building the wagon road from the Fraser Canyon through Yale to Clinton. At the end of their work, most decided to stay in British Columbia; they were each given 150 acres of land. **Sergeant Major John McMurphy** and his family settled at 78 Mile and descendants still reside in the area. You can view some of their historic firearms at the Museum Display.

This is a photograph of some of the Royal Engineers road crew directed by **James A. Robertson**.

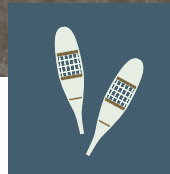


## PINE TREE AUTO COURT

Long ago, the lone pine tree on this site was used as a hitching post for freight teams. The tree also marked the first auto court in Clinton, appropriately named the Pine Tree Auto Court. The auto court was built by **Jack Payne** who lived in the area for about thirty-five years and also owned a ranch at Kelly Lake. About 1920, Jack retired and turned the business over to his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Payne, and his two grandchildren, Leslie and Shirley.

Jack spent many hours gathering pioneer and Indigenous relics and turned the Pine Tree into Clinton’s first museum. After the Pine Tree was sold, the museum artifacts were stored in the shed outside St. Christopher’s Anglican Church. In 1953, the museum was re-established by **Mrs. Maisonville**, a teacher, at its current location just North of here.

Since then, the Pine Tree building before you has housed many different businesses, including a real estate agency, a candy store and a secondhand shop.



## REG CONN CENTENNIAL PARK

In 1963, the community was established as the Village of Clinton and until 1970, **Reg Conn** would act as the first Chairman and Mayor of Clinton. Shortly after establishment, the Village decided they would create their own municipal park in the heart of the village.

**1964:** The Clinton Centennial Committee was created and they decided to make the development of the park their centennial project. To gather the parcels of land, they first applied to the Ministry of Recreation and Conservation to lease the nine lots owned by the Province. Then, a grateful offer to transfer the lease of the eight lots adjacent to the first parcel was made from the Clinton Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

**1965:** Cedric Dorrell's property, which was adjacent to the above parcels, was donated to the Village by the **Lloyd West Family** after they purchased his holdings - in honour of Dorrell's commitment to the Village.

**1967:** The comfort station was established in the park and two footbridges were built. By this point, the basic structure of a park was in place.

**1971:** The park had many nicknames during its initial establishment, including:

- **Dorrell Park** - in respect and honour of Cedric;
- **Clinton Creek Park** - although the Creek is called Cut-off Valley Creek; and
- **Centennial Park** - as it was the centennial project.

In 1971, the Village of Clinton Council passed a motion to officially name it the Reg Conn Centennial Park after the Village's first Mayor who contributed countless hours clearing land, falling trees and preparing the park.

**TODAY**, in our picturesque park you will find picnic areas, a children's playground, a bandshell, and public washrooms. Cut Off Valley Creek winds gently through the park. The park is utilized regularly by the residents of the village to host events in the summer, such as car and bike rallies, music performances, Canada Day celebrations and much more. →

*1970 Clinton Council.*

*L-R: Back Row: Ed Peterson, Fred Boyd, Sid Elliott.  
Front Row: Mayor Reg Conn and Joe Illingworth.*



*Present Day*



## ST. CHRISTOPHER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

The building you see before you was built in 1938. This church was designed by **Right Reverend George Anderson Wells**, second bishop of the Cariboo, who also consecrated the church at 3:00pm on Sunday, August 31, 1938. The building and its furnishing were a gift from **Reverend R.J. Gill** of Surrey, England and had his daughter's name, Madeleine, engraved on the bell. Between 1927-1938, prior to this building, the old schoolhouse which was found on the adjacent property was rented by numerous clergymen for \$6.00 per month (later raised to \$8.00) for religious services.

In 1929, the first resident clergyman to be appointed for the area was the **Reverend John A Lloyd** with pastoral care of St. Christopher's Church, Clinton, with the Bonaparte Mission. **Deaconess Robinson** was the first to hold services in the new building and served the Parish from 1938-1944. The area served by a clergy was a very large one and they often travelled large distances to visit families, hold services, and baptize children, including out to Jesmond (Coldwell Ranch), OK Ranch, and 74 Mile House.

At 7:00pm on Sunday, April 22, 1990, the **Right Reverend John SP Snowden**, sixth Bishop of the Cariboo, released this building from sacred use, enabling it to continue to serve in a new capacity.

The little parish building to the left housed the Pine Tree artifacts until the present museum was opened. St. Christopher's Anglican Church was sold to **Bruce Vallance** who removed the church bell prior to selling the building to the United Native Nations in the early 1990's.



## ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH

St. John's United Church served the Clinton area since 1922. It was built originally as a Presbyterian Church and then in 1925 it became St. John's United Church.

In the photograph, you will notice a white house left to the church (now, three doors down). This house was built in 1900 and was the **James Bishop Residence** during WWI. At the time of publication, this house is home to **Earl and Jocelyn Cahill**, whose family has been a part of Clinton's history since the 1900's.





## CLINTON MUSEUM

In 1892, the all-brick building before you (the only one in Clinton), which currently houses the Clinton Museum, was built as a schoolhouse. The burned clay bricks were made locally at a plant located near Cut Off Creek operated by **Mr. Ed Norton**. In the photograph you will note a tower bell, which was added in 1904, but later removed, melted down, and donated to help the WWI war effort.

In 1919, the building was used as a courthouse as the Government Building had burnt down the same year. It was used for this purpose until the late 1940's when it was put to use as a schoolhouse once again until 1951.

In 1956, it was then taken over by the South Cariboo Historical Museum Society and has since acquired a treasury of historical papers, photos, and antiques dating back to the early-Gold Rush days. In 1989, the Museum was declared a Municipal Heritage site by the Village of Clinton. Later in 1999, the Museum purchased the eighty-eight year old Provincial Government Stables and moved it from the Highways Yard across the lane, creating room for more historical artifacts and displays.



*Students of Clinton School 1898*

*Teacher: Miss Powell*

*Students, back row, left to right: Joe Smith, Harry Tweedle, Alfie Smith, Archie McDougall, Oden McDougall, Johnny Tait, Donat LeBourdais, Charles Pollard, J McDougall, F Soues, and Tom McDougall.*

*Students, front row, left to right: Lillian Evans, Nora LeBourdais, Jenny Louther, Alice Louther, Kate McDougall, Eva Truam, Sissie Pollard, Sadie McMillan, Carrie Robertson, W Walker, Vinnie Hautier, Harry Pollard, James Robertson, Inglis Uren, Fred Hautier, Stanley McMillan, Willie Uren, J McMillan, L LeBourdais, Pete LeBourdais, and C Pollard.*



**THE WALKING  
TOUR ENDS HERE  
AT THE MUSEUM.**

Please stop in and  
continue your journey  
through history.





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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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# CARIBOO MAP 1862 - 1865

Map adapted from Lillian Wonders, Trail to Gold 1995

